

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- The application has been amended as follows:
- Claims 1-2,4-5,7-11,14-15 and 17-19, line1, please change, "presently amended", to read, --currently amended--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a digital imaging method and system. The closest prior art, Hubel et al. (USPN 6,038,339), shows a similar system, in which, color digital imaging quality is improved by quickly, accurately and robustly estimating illuminant information associated with a color digital image to correct color of the image based on the illuminant, wherein a correlation matrix memory or associative matrix memory is used to achieve identical results to the color in perspective method and to improve it by adding Bayesian or other correlation statistics. However, Hubel et al. fail to address: "for wherein a color image database storing multiple images from actual image data and an image processing process that is capable of detecting color and illuminants of the acquired digital images based on color and illuminants of the multiple images from actual image data stored in the color image database". These distinct features have been added to all independent claims and render them allowable.

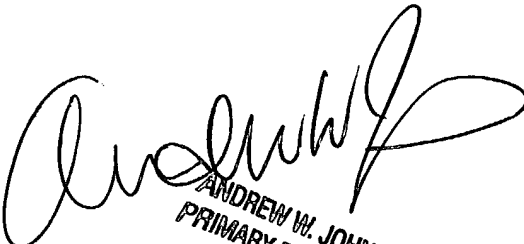
- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 703-306-5913.
- The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo Boudreau can be reached on 703-305-4706.

Art Unit: 2621

- The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
- For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ANDREW W. JOHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AA
Group Art Unit 2621
03 December 2004